

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-07 RSC-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01

PRS-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 /054 W

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R 041416Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 405

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, DAVID)

SUBJ: ROCKEFELLER VISIT TO SYRIA

1. SUMMARY. WARM SYRIAN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE RESPONSE TO ROCKEFELLER PARTY'S OVERNIGHT VISIT JAN 27/28 PROVIDED CLEAR INDICATION OF SARG'S STRONG DESIRE FOR MORE VISITS OF THIS TYPE. VISIT WENT VERY SMOOTHLY AND ANOTHER GOOD NUDGE WAS GIVEN TO OPENING SYRIAN DOOR FOR ON-THE-GROUND AMERICAN BANKING OPERATIONS IN SYRIA. ALL SIGNALS POINT TO POSSIBLE OPENING OF THIS DOOR IN NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE AND U.S. BANKING REPS. SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE VISITS TO SYRIA. END SUMMARY.

2. ROCKEFELLER PARTY VISIT WENT VERY SMOOTHLY IN SYRIA WITH ONLY DRAWBACK BEING INABILITY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD OWING TO DEATH OF ASAD'S BROTHER AND PRESIDENT'S ABSENCE FROM DAMASCUS FOR FUNERAL. ROCKEFELLER WARMLY WELCOMED UPON AIRPORT ARRIVAL BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN  
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TRADE DR. ABDULLAH AZMEH, COMMERCIAL AND CENTRAL BANK AND

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES. JAN 27  
MORNING TAKEN UP WITH INDIVIDUAL CALLS ON MINISTER OF ECONOMY  
AND FOREIGN TRADE DR. MOHAMMAD AL-IMADI, CENTRAL BANK  
GOVERNOR DR. NASSOUH DAKKAK, COMMERCIAL BANK OF SYRIA CHAIRMAN  
DR. DIB ABUASSALI, AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND ECONOFF.

3. IMADI HOSTED WELL-ATTENDED LUNCHEON WITH IN ADDITION TO  
THOSE NAMED ABOVE, SUBHI KAHLE, MINISTER OF EUPHRATES DAM,  
DR. NOURALLAH NOURALLAH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AMIN BIRZGHL, OTHER  
SYRIAN OFFICIALS FROM ECONOMIC, FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FINANCIAL  
SECTORS, PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN, AMBASSADOR, DCM AND ECONOFF.

4. ROCKEFELLER MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN  
MINISTER KHADDAM THAT EVENING AND THEN RETURNED WITH  
AMBASSADOR FOR DINNER AT RESIDENCE ATTENDED BY MIXED GROUP  
OF GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE AND ACADEMIC LEADERS IN DAMASCUS.

5. JAN 28 ROCKEFELLER'S GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM II, AFTER  
SOME WEATHER DELAY, WHIPPED OUT AHEAD OF LARGE ROMANIAN  
DELEGATION IN IL-18 FOR VISIT TO EUPHRATES DAM.  
DR. AZMEH ACCOMPANIED PARTY ALONG WITH AMBASSADOR AND  
ECONOFF. PRESENCE OF PRESIDENT ASAD'S PILOT CAPTAIN  
MOUWAFK TINAWI IN COCKPIT WAS INVALUABLE TO CG II'S  
PILOTS IN GETTING RAPID WEATHER REPORTS AND LANDING AT  
DAM AIRPORT WHICH IS UNDER SYRIAN MILITARY CONTROL.  
FOLLOWING BRIEF VISIT TO DAM, WHICH IS SYRIA'S LARGEST  
AND MOST IMPRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, PARTY RETURNED  
TO DAMASCUS TO LET OFF PASSENGERS PRIOR TO ONWARD  
FLIGHT TO BAGHDAD. DR. ABUASSALI JOINED DR. AZMEH AT  
AIRPORT TO SAY FAREWELLS.

6. COMMENT: SYRIAN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL LEADERS WERE  
WELL-EXPOSED TO OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY WORKING CLOSELY  
WITH CHASE MANHATTAN BANK AND RESULT WAS CLEAR AND GOOD  
EFFORT TO BEGIN TO OPEN SYRIA TO AMERICAN BANKS.  
SYRIANS AT ALL LEVELS RESPONDED VERY WARMLY TO VISIT;  
PLANNING BY CHASE/BEIRUT REP. DMARY AND EMBASSY WAS CLOSE  
AND GOOD. AS WE NOTED IN DAMASCUS 0051 RE ROCKEFELLER  
SCHEDULE, THIS IS EXACTLY TYPE OF VISIT SYRIANS KEEP  
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REQUESTING US TO ENCOURAGE.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

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